be revised, and at least the Alur pakuthi, which was now placed under the jurisdiction of the courts at Nagercoil, 6 miles away, might be transferred to the jurisdiction of the courts at Padmanabhapuram which was only 2 miles away.

The member next took up the question of extending the jurisdiction of the Village Panchayat and Bench Magistrates' courts at Padmanabhapuram. These courts were functioning quite well for the last nine years and the member saw no reason why their jurisdiction should not be extended. The District Magistrate, Trivandrum, had in his inspection notes of the 12th Makaram 1103 recorded the opinion that the question of extending the jurisdiction of the courts was worthy of consideration. The member suggested that as a tentative measure the jurisdiction of the courts might be extended over the pakuthies of Kalkulam and Tuckalai.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subrahmanya Pillai, in regard to the question of transfer of one of the Munsiff's courts from Tuckalai to Eraniel, since the last communication of the 25th December, the High Court has been asked to look into the matter and they have expressed their willingness to consider your suggestion. Again, in connection with the general re-adjustment of the territorial jurisdiction of all civil courts in the State, the High Court is now taking up that subject for consideration.

In regard to extension of the jurisdiction of the Padmanabhapuram Village Panchayat court, the view taken by the High Court is that since this is a very young institution at present, it is necessary to wait and see how it establishes itself. In view of your representation, I shall have the matter once again placed before the High Court.

15. A Magistrate's court at Tiruvalla.

MR. K. N. NILAKANTA KYMAL (*Member, Tiruvalla taluk, Group I*) said that the establishment of a Magistrate's court at Tiruvalla was a question which had evoked much discussion both in the Assembly and elsewhere. It was a burning question for the people of Tiruvalla. It was not a correct impression that some people had gathered about this question, that the agitation was all from the vakils of Tiruvalla. Before the abolition of the old court at Tiruvalla, the public were never informed of it, and they were never given an opportunity to present their case. The member therefore urged that the old court might be restored or in the alternative that the additional Munsiff, Tiruvalla, might be invested with magisterial powers.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Nilakanta Kymal, I was inclined to think that a Magistrate's court at Tiruvalla was a flower that burst into bloom in the Spring *i. e.*, at the Assembly, every year. You will find that I had something to say about it at the 22nd and the 23rd sessions of the Assembly. And now I have got to say something again at the 24th session. But I can tell you this, that I have now discovered that it is not a mere seasonal blossom but that it is a hardy annual, blossoming right through the year. And during my recent visit to Tiruvalla I was not allowed to forget the question of a Magistrate's court, not for a moment of my stay there. Wherever I went I found 'Magistrate's Court' printed up all over the place. Whoever I saw spoke about the Magistrate's court. Therefore, it seems to me that it is a really felt want in Tiruvalla and that the people of Tiruvalla look upon it as a legitimate grievance. And what impressed me most was the universality with which the request was presented to me there. I first thought that we might consider the question of investing a Munsiff with magisterial powers. But that question has to wait until, as I told the last member, the High Court goes into the question of a general readjustment of territorial jurisdiction of all civil courts in the State which they have resolved to do. If that is going to take a long time I do not think it will be right to let this question of a Magistrate's court at Tiruvalla stand over until then ; and I shall induce the Chief Secretary, if inducement is necessary, to take up the question at once.

16. Reform of the Judicial department.

MR. N. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Member, Kottarakara taluk*) speaking about the reform of the judicial department, suggested that a competitive examination should be instituted as in Mysore for the recruitment of judicial officers whether

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